

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1-14 have been allowed over the art of record and that the instant application is in condition for allowance, except for the noted formal matter.

The drawings were objected to for various informalities. The drawings and specification have been amended to address each of the objections set forth in the Office Action. In particular, the drawings have been amended to remove reference characters 74a, 74b, 74c, 74d, t3 and t5, the specification has been amended to refer to step S1020 in Figure 8, in Figure 7, step S1014, and in Figure 9, step S2007, "COUNT + = 1 " has been amended to --COUNT + 1--, and in Figure 7, step S1015, and in Figure 9, step S2011, "AND" has been amended to --END--.

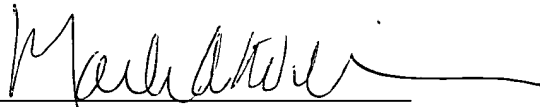
Additionally, Applicants have amended paragraph [0076] of the specification to correct a typographical error. Specifically, Applicants have amended that paragraph to refer to Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2001-305818 (JP 2001-305818), rather than Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 13-305818. Applicants attached hereto a Form PTO-1449 listing JP 2001-305818 and a copy and English language abstract of JP 2001-305818, and respectfully request that the Examiner consider the document and initial and return the Form PTO-1449.

For the reasons noted above, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance are requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this paper to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. Office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Mark A. Williamson
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed Replacement Sheets of drawings for the corresponding drawing sheets currently on file.

FIG. 1 has been amended by deleting “74a”, “74b”, “74c”, and “74d”.

FIG. 3 has been amended by deleting “t3” and “t5”.

FIG. 4 has been amended by deleting “t5”.

FIG. 6 as amended by deleting “t3” and “t5”.

FIG. 7 has been amended by changing “COUNT + = 1” to --COUNT + 1-- in S1014, and changing “AND” to --END-- in S1015.

FIG. 9 has been amended by changing “COUNT + = 1” to --COUNT + 1-- in S2007, and changing “AND” to --END-- in S2011.